



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Barkur G. BHAT *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/267,199

Filed: March 12, 1999

For: **Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with the
Tocopherol Pathway**

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: M. Moran

Atty. Docket: 04983.0024.00US01/
38-21 (15092)B

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TECH CENTER 1600/2900

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Plunkett
3/29/01

Response to Office Action dated November 21, 2000

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 21, 2000, applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A substantially purified nucleic acid molecule that encodes a maize or soybean tocopherol synthesis pathway enzyme or fragment thereof, wherein said maize or soybean tocopherol synthesis pathway enzyme is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) deoxyarabiono-heptulosonate-P-synthase or fragment thereof;
- (b) putative deoxyarabiono-heptulosonate-P-synthase or fragment thereof;
- (c) dehydroquinate synthase or fragment thereof;
- (d) dehydroquinate dehydratase or fragment thereof;

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